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ACTION DS-00

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 ARA-01 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 EB-01
FBIE-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 JUSE-00 L-01 ADS-00 NSAE-00
OMB-01 SCT-00 TRSE-00 ASDS-01 DSCC-00 /006W
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R 251840Z APR 95

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5654

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 002378

FOR DS/ATA, S/CT, ARA/(BSC)

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PTER, ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: U.S. COUNTER-TERRORISM TRAINING IN ARGENTINA

1. BELOW IS TEXT OF AN UNCLASSIFIED FACT SHEET THAT POST IS USING TO BRIEF VISITORS, PARTICULARLY CONCERNED JEWISH GROUPS AND ARGENTINE OFFICIALS. IT OUTLINES THE USG'S CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS TO HELP ARGENTINA COMBAT TERRORISM. THIS MATERIAL MAY ALSO BE OF USE TO THE DEPARTMENT AS IT REVIEWS ALL OF OUR COUNTER-TERRORISM PROGRAMS, THUS FAR, IN A SINGLE DOCUMENT.

BEGIN TEXT:

U.S.-ARGENTINE COOPERATION ON ANTI-TERRORISM

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THE U.S.G. RESPONDED TO THE AMIA BOMBING AND PROVIDING A TEAM OF 13 EXPERTS IN EXPLOSIVE INVESTIGATION, THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM. THE TEAM ARRIVED ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, LESS THAN 48 HOURS AFTER THE BLAST. THE TEAM REPRESENTED VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INCLUDING SECURITY EXPERTS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, AND THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL TOBACCO AND FIREARMS. MEMBERS OF THIS TEAM HAD WORKED ON THE WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBING AND OTHERS HAD ASSISTED THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE (AFP) IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE BOMB WHICH DESTROYED THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES IN 1992. THE TEAM STAYED FOR FIVE DAYS ASSISTING THE AFP IN THE INVESTIGATION. THEY WORKED SIDE BY SIDE WITH AFP AND ISRAELI EXPERTS AT THE BOMB SITE. THEY WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE RECOVERY OF THE ENGINE PARTS, WHICH WERE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF EVIDENCE RECOVERED.

SUBSEQUENTLY, ON AUGUST 4TH THREE MEMBERS OF THE FBI DISASTER SQUAD WERE DISPATCHED TO HELP WITH THE IDENTIFICATION OF UNKNOWN BODIES. THIS TEAM HAD PARTICULAR EXPERTISE IN FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION. IT WAS HOPED THAT THEY WOULD IDENTIFY UNKNOWN VICTIMS AND POSSIBLY THE PERPETRATOR OF THE BOMBING. THEY ASSISTED THE AFP IN CONFIRMING RESULTS OF TESTING. ON AUGUST 6TH THE U.S. ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY SENT AN ELEVEN-MEMBER TEAM OF FORENSIC PATHOLOGISTS TO WORK WITH THE JUDICIAL MORGUE IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF HUMAN REMAINS THROUGH SCIENTIFIC EXAMINATION OF THOSE REMAINS. THEY ASSISTED IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF AT LEAST TWO UNKNOWN BODIES, THEREBY PERMITTING THEIR

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BURIAL.

-- SEPTEMBER 6, 1994, A TEAM FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM, HEADED BY AMBASSADOR PHILLIP WILCOX, CAME TO DISCUSS TERRORISM AND WAYS OF COMBATING IT WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. AS RESULT OF THAT TRIP ARGENTINA HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLY INCREASED ASSISTANCE IN ANTI-TERRORISM TRAINING (SEE BELOW).

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-- OCTOBER 26, 1994, A TEAM OF THREE FBI TERRORISM EXPERTS CAME TO ARGENTINA FROM THE MIAMI OFFICE OF THE FBI TO CONSULT ON THE AMIA BOMB INVESTIGATION. THEY HAD ADDITIONAL LEAD INFORMATION COMING FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE U.S., WHICH WAS SHARED WITH ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES.

TRAINING:

DECEMBER 1994 - AN EVALUATION TEAM WAS SENT TO DETERMINE IF ARGENTINA COULD PARTICIPATE IN A BOMB DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM TO BE FUNDED BY THE USG.

JANUARY 1995 - TERRORIST CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION - 20 OFFICERS FROM POLICE AND JUDICIARY ATTENDED A TWO-WEEK COURSE AT THE FBI ACADEMY IN QUANTICO, VIRGINIA.

JANUARY 1995 - THE U.S. HAS OFFERED AND THE GOA HAS ACCEPTED THE DONATION OF A \$100,000 BOMB ROBOT TO DISARM DEVICES.

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MARCH 1995 - TEAM WENT TO THE U.S. FOR INITIAL PHASE OF BOMB DETECTOR DOG TRAINING. WHEN COMPLETED IN AUGUST, IT WILL REPRESENT A \$500,000 PROGRAM.

NOTE: IN FY-96, PHASE TWO OF THE DOG PROGRAM WILL START. ADDITIONAL DOGS WILL BE TRAINED; A SUPPLEMENTARY \$600,000 PROGRAM. AT THE END OF PHASE TWO THE GOA WILL HAVE A FULLY OPERATIONAL BOMB DOG TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH WILL MAKE ARGENTINA SELF SUPPORTING IN ITS BOMB DOG CAPABILITY.

MARCH 1995 - A COURSE IN AVIATION SECURITY WAS GIVEN TO AIRPORT AUTHORITIES IN ARGENTINA. THE COURSE TAUGHT SECURITY OFFICIALS NEW WAYS TO PROTECT AIRPORTS AND AIRLINES.

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APRIL 1995 - A TEAM OF PHYSICAL SECURITY EXPERTS ARE TO
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COME TO EVALUATE SECURITY AT SELECTED SITES IN ARGENTINA. NGO'S, INCLUDING AMIA, WERE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

APRIL 1995 - A GROUP OF 14 GOA OFFICIALS FROM THE FEDERAL POLICE, FEDERAL JUDICIARY, OFFICE OF SECURITY AND PROTECTION AND VARIOUS PROVINCIAL POLICE AGENCIES WERE SENT TO THE U.S. TO RECEIVE TRAINING IN THE COORDINATION IN THE EVENT OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS.

JULY 1995 - A COURSE IN PHYSICAL SECURITY WILL BE OFFERED TO THE GOA AND ARGENTINE NGO'S. THE AIM OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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COURSE IS TRAINING SECURITY, ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL PERSONNEL IN PROTECTION OF BUILDINGS FROM TERRORIST ATTACK.

SEPTEMBER 1995 - A COURSE IN MANAGEMENT OF DISASTERS (MAN-MADE AND NATURAL) WILL BE OFFERED TO SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

TOTAL EXPENDED THUS FAR ON ANTI-TERRORISM ASSISTANCE IN ARGENTINA IS CIRCA \$1,000,000. THE AMOUNT PROJECTED BY THE MIDDLE OF FY-96 WILL BE \$2.5 MILLION.

OTHER ANTI-TERRORISM ITEMS:

-- IN FEBRUARY 1995, THE U.S. OFFERED AN ORIENTATION TRIP TO WASHINGTON FOR ARGENTINE PARLIAMENTARIANS INVOLVED IN DRAFTING THE COUNTRY'S NEW ANTI-TERRORISM LAW. THE TRIP WOULD BE USED TO SHARE EXPERIENCES WITH U.S. LEGISLATORS AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS. (POSTPONED DUE TO LACK OF TRAVEL FUNDS.)

-- AT THE DECEMBER 1994 SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS, THE CHIEFS OF STATE CALLED FOR A HEMISPHERIC CONFERENCE ON ANTI-TERRORISM IN 1995. THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA IS WORKING WITH THE USG TO HOLD A REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN CONE GOVERNMENTS PREPARATORY TO THAT MEETING LATER IN THE YEAR. END TEXT.

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